



January 21, 2005

Drug Assistance Programs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending that all Lost Boys and Girls be treated for schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) and strongyloidiasis. Information about this recommendation can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/index.htm>. Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) is treated with praziquantel and strongyloidiasis is treated with albendazole. This notice contains information about getting these drugs from the manufacturer at a low cost.

Praziquantel (Biltricide®): Schering-Plough

Schering-Plough and Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation recently merged. Before the merger, praziquantel was made by Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Until late February/early March 2005, Bayer will manage patient assistance for praziquantel. To ask about patient assistance through Bayer, the patient, a doctor, a nurse, an advocate, or a friend can call 1-800-998-9180. A Bayer representative will talk to that person over the phone and determine eligibility. The eligibility requirement is based on income. If eligible, an identification number will be given over the phone. The patient can take that identification number and prescription to any pharmacy and have the prescription filled at no cost. More information about Bayer's program can be found at <http://www.needymeds.com/programs/bayer.html>.

After late February/early March 2005, praziquantel assistance will change from Bayer to Schering-Plough. At that time, Schering-Plough will only provide praziquantel assistance through its Hospital Patient Assistance Program and will not provide help for patients who are not hospitalized. More information about Schering-Plough's programs can be found at http://www.schering-plough.com/schering_plough/corp/patient_programs.jsp.

Albendazole (Albenza®): GSK

GSK requires an advocate (a doctor, a nurse, or a pharmacist) to call 866-728-4368 to request an enrollment form. The enrollment form can be faxed (within 4 hours of request) or mailed. After the form is filled out, the advocate calls the company back and eligibility is determined over the phone. Eligibility criteria include having an income <\$25,000, being a U.S. resident, and having no prescription drug benefit. There is a coupon on the bottom of the enrollment form. If eligible, the patient can take that coupon and the prescription to a pharmacy. The cost of the medication will be \$10 for each 30-day supply (or \$20 for a 60-day supply; for patients who need more than 60 days of a medication, further arrangements can be made with GSK). For the Lost Boys and Girls, the cost for their supply would be \$10. More information about GSK's program can be found at <http://www.bridgestoaccess.gsk.com>.